



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 11 October 2007

Current Nationwide



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- According to *The Associated Press*, a government advisory panel has concluded that the U.S. government should replace more than 1,000 irradiation machines used in hospitals and research facilities because terrorists could use the radioactive materials inside to make a “dirty” bomb. Any of these relatively unprotected machines could be used to make a bomb that could shut down 25 square kilometers for 40-plus years, according to panel documents. (See item [4](#))
- *The Associated Press* reports that the federal government is considering buying out as many as 17,000 homes along the Mississippi coast and remaking the land into a vast hurricane protection zone. The project, dubbed the Mississippi Coastal Improvement Program, could cost \$40 billion. (See item [34](#))

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump**

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## **Energy Sector**

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical**: ELEVATED, **Cyber**: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *October 10, Bloomberg* – (Gulf of Mexico) **BP, BHP start pumping at Atlantis Field in U.S. Gulf**. BP Plc, Europe’s second-biggest oil company by market value, and BHP Billiton Ltd. started production at the \$3.7 billion Atlantis oil field in the Gulf of Mexico, more than a year behind schedule. The field is pumping about 10,000 barrels a day and will be gradually brought up to full production, said a spokeswoman at Melbourne-based BHP, confirming a report in *the Age*. The formal start-up date remains the end of 2007, she said. Atlantis’s daily

production capacity will be 200,000 barrels of oil and 180 million cubic feet of gas.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601207&sid=aATMaWn5HYS4&refer=energy>

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## **Chemical Industry**

2. *October 10, Charleston Daily Mail* – (West Virginia) **Four injured in chemical reaction.** A chemical reaction at a Nitro plant injured at least four workers. The incident involving nitric acid happened Tuesday at Catalyst Refiners Inc., according to Kanawha County dispatchers. “It appeared they had a release of about 50 pounds of product,” said the director of Kanawha County Emergency services. “They were trying to make silver nitrate, and the compound they were mixing got something in it, maybe water.” Silver nitrate can cause severe pain if spilled on the skin. If swallowed, it can cause coughing, nausea and vomiting. The director did not call the incident a spill or an explosion, but said it was only a “little reaction caused from pressure.” The federal government’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s West Virginia office inspected the Nitro plant in July 2004 and cited Catalyst Refiners for two serious and two other-than-serious violations.  
Source: <http://www.dailymail.com/story/News/2007101058/Four-injured-in-chemical-reaction/>
3. *October 9, KMBC Kansas City, Missouri* – (Missouri) **Chemical leak forces residents to evacuate.** A railroad tanker car carrying a hazardous chemical forced the evacuation of more than two dozen homes in Franklin County Tuesday afternoon, authorities said. The sheriff’s office said the BNSF tanker leaked chlorobenzyl chloride, which can irritate the skin and eyes. The chemical can also be toxic if ingested. Twelve railroad workers were injured when the tank car ruptured. They were taken to hospitals for treatment. Residents of about 25 homes within a half-mile of the railroad tracks were asked to leave their homes as a precaution.  
Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/kmbc/20071009/lo\\_kmbc/14303608](http://news.yahoo.com/s/kmbc/20071009/lo_kmbc/14303608)
4. *October 9, The Associated Press* – (National) **Panel wants tighter radiation security.** The U.S. government should replace more than 1,000 irradiation machines used in hospitals and research facilities because terrorists could use the radioactive materials inside to make a “dirty” bomb, a government advisory panel has concluded. “Any one of these 1,000-plus sources could shut down 25 square kilometers, anywhere in the United States, for 40-plus years,” according to panel documents obtained by *the Associated Press*. The machines are in relatively unprotected locations such as hospitals and research facilities all over the country, and may be a tempting source of radioactive materials for terrorists, who want bombs that explode and disperse radioactive debris over a large area, rendering it uninhabitable, the board found. The irradiators contain Cesium-137, one of the most dangerous and long-lasting radioactive materials. They are used for radiation therapy and to sterilize blood and food. Swapping the Cesium irradiators for X-ray machines or irradiators that use other materials would cost about \$200 million over five years, but it would take the most accessible source of dangerous radioactive material inside the United States “off the table” for terrorists, the panel says.  
Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071009/ap\\_on\\_go\\_ot/terrorism\\_panel](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071009/ap_on_go_ot/terrorism_panel)

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste**

5. *October 10, The Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Report: Supervisors knew nuclear plant guards took naps.** Federal regulators say 10 security officers, who were responsible for guarding Pennsylvania's Peach Bottom nuclear power plant, routinely took naps in a break room. Moreover, the regulators' report says the officers' supervisors knew about it. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission released its findings on this incident yesterday, in a public meeting with the owner of the plant. Investigators say the officers took the naps, on occasion, when they were on 12-hour shifts. The owners of the plant say they agree with the NRC findings. A federal official says one of the officers no longer works in the nuclear industry. The other nine are on administrative leave, pending the outcome of the investigation.  
Source: <http://www.kplctv.com/Global/story.asp?S=7193088>
6. *October 10, The Herald News* – (Illinois) **Nuclear station to recharge.** The Braidwood Generating Station is middle-aged. Throughout its lifespan, the nuclear power station's two units have been shut down about every 18 months for refueling and maintenance. That is what is happening now to Unit 1, which shut down at 11 p.m. September 30 for several weeks of work. About 1,700 additional workers will spend time at the nuclear power station during the work outage. They come from all over the country. Some are Exelon employees while others are members of local building and trade unions. The outage was scheduled for October because this is supposed to be a time when air-conditioners are winding down and heaters have not been cranked up yet, said the Exelon spokesman. During the outage, about one-third of the reactor's fuel will be replaced. Furthermore, workers will perform more than 11,000 inspections. Additional maintenance includes refurbishing turbines, cleaning and welds stabilization.  
Source:  
[http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/heraldnews/business/595810,4\\_3\\_JO10\\_BRAIDWOOD\\_S1.article](http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/heraldnews/business/595810,4_3_JO10_BRAIDWOOD_S1.article)

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

7. *October 10, PRNewswire* – (National) **General Dynamics' chemical detection technology selected by U.S. Department of Defense for evaluation.** General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products, a business unit of General Dynamics has been selected by the U.S. Department of Defense to participate in the first major phase of Increment 2 of the Joint Chemical Agent Detector (JCAD) Program. General Dynamics' handheld chemical agent detector, JUNO(TM), incorporates next-generation differential mobility spectrometry (DMS) technology, providing better detection, sensitivity and selectivity compared with that of traditional, handheld ion mobility spectrometry (IMS)-based chemical agent detectors. The goal of the JCAD program is to improve protection for the warfighter by making it possible for users to confidently, quickly and easily monitor exposure levels to multiple chemical warfare agents, toxic industrial chemicals and nontraditional agents simultaneously, and confirm decontamination effectiveness.  
Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/071010/new052.html?v=23>

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

8. *October 10, The Peoria Journal Star* – (National) **Hacker accesses Commerce Bank data.** The Commerce Bank computer system was breached and the information on 3,000 accounts has been compromised, according to the bank's spokeswoman. A hacker accessed information on 20 accounts, but the bank's officials decided to inform all 3,000 account owners, whose information was part of the same computer file. According to the spokeswoman, it appears that the information accessed has not been used yet. The case is currently being handled by the F.B.I. Commerce Bank, a subsidiary of Commerce Bancshares Inc., has approximately 360 locations in Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, Oklahoma and Colorado.  
Source: [http://www.pjstar.com/stories/101007/TRI\\_BEJIRQFB.027.php](http://www.pjstar.com/stories/101007/TRI_BEJIRQFB.027.php)
9. *October 9, KVOA Tucson, Arizona* – (Arizona) **Tucson Water warns of “brain eating amoeba” scam.** Tucson, Arizona officials released a warning to the city's residents of scammers posing as private contractors for the city. A resident reported two men, who came to his house, asked to test his water, and when the water turned yellow, they offered to sell him water treatment equipment for the price of \$4,500. The fraudsters are trying to take advantage of the residents' concerns of the recently found brain eating amoeba in the city's water supply. However, city officials said that all their employees wear their uniforms with the Tucson Water logo on the front, drive marked vehicles, and carry a photo ID issued by the city. Moreover, the water quality can be tested at the water meter.  
Source: <http://kvoa.com/Global/story.asp?S=7190831&nav=HMO6HMaW>

## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

10. *October 10, The New York Times* – (National) **U.S. again rejects a shoe scanner.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced on Tuesday that it has rejected a shoe scanner, which would have allowed passengers to go through security with their shoes on. The device, which was manufactured by General Electric and improved from its earlier version, “still does not meet standards to ensure detection of explosives,” said TSA officials. The same sources stated that a prototype of the machine, which is currently used at Orlando International Airport in Florida, will be discontinued today. The shoe-scanning device would have benefited the 68,000 members of the Clear version of the Registered Traveler program, which is operating at 10 airports nationwide.  
Source:  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/10/business/10shoe.html?\\_r=2&ref=business&oref=slogin&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/10/business/10shoe.html?_r=2&ref=business&oref=slogin&oref=slogin)
11. *October 10, WCSH Portland, Oregon* – (National) **Group says U.S. traffic lights need work.** The National Transportation Operations Coalition released a report card according to which the nation received a ‘D’ grade for traffic signals. The group criticized the fact that traffic lights are not synchronized or designed to change based on traffic flow. Improvements in this sector would generate savings in congestion and fuel, according to the coalition. The goal set

by the group is a 40 percent reduction nationwide in traffic delays, which would save commuters approximately 120 traffic hours per year.

Source: <http://www.wcsh6.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=72166>

12. *October 10, The Gazette-Enterprise* – (National) **Incidents at tracks put spotlight on safety.** Nationwide, accidents at railroad crossings and along railroad tracks are down. But dangerous incidents for drivers and trespassers persist, and have increased official focus on rail safety issues. Walking along railroads is not only dangerous for pedestrians but there is also the risk of damage to rails, switch, crossing, or other safety equipment, should a pedestrian be intent on vandalism. The train can also be at risk, as applying the emergency breaks may result in derailment.

Source: <http://www.seguingazette.com/story.lasso?ewcd=388a52ac9483ac3b>

13. *October 9, Federal Aviation Administration* – (National) **En Route Automation Modernization (ERAM).** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced on Tuesday that the agency is “*on budget and ahead of schedule* with a system that will increase capacity by enabling air traffic controllers to track more aircraft at high altitudes.” The En Route Automation Modernization (ERAM) equipment, which is produced by Lockheed Martin, was delivered to the FAA six months ahead of schedule after it exceeded the required pass rate with a score of 92.9 percent. ERAM “processes flight radar data, provides communications support, and generates display data to air traffic controllers.” By using the new system, controllers operating at 20 FAA air route traffic control centers will be able to track 1,900 aircraft at a time, instead of the current 1,100. Moreover, ERAM is capable of supporting 64 radars, instead of the current 24. “This software is a huge step toward the next generation of air traffic control,” said the FAA’s acting administrator.

Source: [http://www.faa.gov/news/fact\\_sheets/news\\_story.cfm?newsId=7714](http://www.faa.gov/news/fact_sheets/news_story.cfm?newsId=7714)

14. *October 9, The Brownsville Herald* – (National) **Customs seeking comment from citizens on border fence.** The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials have asked citizens to provide their opinions on the environmental impacts of the proposed fence on the Texas-Mexico border. The opponents and proponents of the project have the choice of either voicing their opinions at a local forum with city leaders, or sending their comments directly to federal officials. All comments must be submitted to CBP by October 15<sup>th</sup> via email, fax or mail.

Source: [http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/news/border\\_81014\\_article.html/fence\\_city.html](http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/news/border_81014_article.html/fence_city.html)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

15. *October 9, Congress Daily* – (National) **Panel to review progress on port security.** The House Homeland Security Committee has scheduled a hearing to examine if the Homeland Security Department is meeting congressional mandates under the SAFE Port maritime security law enacted a year ago. The department has already missed one major deadline of the law, and identification cards that were to be issued to workers at the ten busiest seaports by July, will not be distributed until November. The department is expected to report on whether technology exists and is practical to scan all cargo containers at foreign ports before they are shipped to the United States.

Source: [http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=38245&dcn=todaysnews](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=38245&dcn=todaysnews)

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

16. *October 10, The Associated Press* – (National) **Scab disease nearly nonexistent this year.** Fusarium head blight, a grain-shriveling crop disease commonly known as “scab,” was nearly nonexistent this year in all wheat and grain states except Nebraska and Kansas, said the co-chairman of the U.S. National Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative. The disease can sicken humans and livestock and has cost wheat, durum and barley farmers billions of dollars in the past.  
Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5izrj8anPoPFJKWGVG9FIQu3Dh5bgD8S68GE00>
17. *October 9, The Associated Press* – (Missouri; National) **Pot pie makers close plant linked to salmonella.** ConAgra Foods Inc. voluntarily stopped production Tuesday at the Missouri plant that makes its Banquet pot pies after health officials said the pies may be linked to 139 cases of salmonella in 30 states. ConAgra officials believe the company’s pies are safe if they are cooked properly, but told consumers Tuesday not to eat its chicken or turkey pot pies until government and company investigations are complete. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been tracking reports of the salmonella cases since last Wednesday. A CDC spokeswoman said the largest numbers of cases had been reported in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Missouri. Earlier this year, ConAgra had to recall all of its peanut butter because it was linked to a different salmonella outbreak. Although ConAgra did not recall its products, it is offering refunds to consumers. So far no deaths have been linked to the pot pies.  
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21209566/>
18. *October 9, International Herald Tribune* – (National) **U.S. officials study Japan for lessons on imports.** *The International Herald Tribune* reports that the U.S. House of Representatives is looking at the Japanese model of import inspection, which it says is better than the system currently use by the FDA, describing it as “the most realistic model for protecting American consumers.” Private labs in Japan test 10 percent of the country’s food imports, whereas only 1 percent is tested in the U.S.  
Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/10/09/bloomberg/safety.php>
19. *October 9, USA Today* – (National) **Slow progress made in protecting U.S. food supply.** Many proposed solutions to long-standing problems with food imports have been delayed, derailed or ignored by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Congress and the food industry as imports have risen in the past decade. Measures withered because of lack of funds, lack of political will, competing priorities and industry opposition, say former FDA officials and current lawmakers. For example, the government has failed to implement a law passed in 2002 requiring unsafe imports to be marked: “UNITED STATES REFUSED ENTRY.” This would discourage unscrupulous importers from trying to sneak goods in through other U.S. ports with fewer or less-suspicious inspectors. Despite the recent concern over Chinese imports, “the slow trek of the port-shopping law tempers expectations of quick and effective change.” Additionally, the former secretary of Health and Human Services said “by the time



Congress gets around to appropriating money, concern has ebbed again.”

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/food/2007-10-09-fda-import-safety\\_N.htm?csp=34](http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/food/2007-10-09-fda-import-safety_N.htm?csp=34)

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## **Water Sector**

20. *October 8, The Utica Observer-Dispatch* – (New York) **Early canal closure protects drinking water.** The Canal Corporation announced Monday that the entire New York state canal system will close earlier than expected in an effort to deal with the Mohawk Valley’s water shortage. Closing the canal system early will reduce the drain from the canal’s backup reservoirs and ensure that water remains available to the water authority customers, who have been dealing with restricted water use. The early closure is expected to have a negative impact on the communities and local businesses. Substantial rainfall before November may result in the canal being kept open longer.

Source: <http://www.uticaod.com/waterwoes/x373060877>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

21. *October 10, Xinhua* – (International) **Bird flu virus strain in Vietnam mutates.** A Bird flu virus strain in Vietnam has mutated, becoming more dangerous, a local newspaper reported Wednesday. However, according to the Vietnamese Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the mutation is not large enough to allow the virus to pass between humans. Vietnam is currently experiencing a high risk of bird flu reoccurrence, as the cold weather is favorable for the development of viruses, he said.
- Source: [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2007-10/10/content\\_6857409.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2007-10/10/content_6857409.htm)
22. *October 9, Science Daily* – (International) **Grid computing offers new hope in race against bird flu.** Last month a collaboration of European and Asian researchers launched a new computing grid that connects 40,000 ordinary computers across 45 countries to form a supercomputer, called Enabling Grids for E-sciencE (EGEE). EGEE is intended to boost the pace of anti-viral drug discovery for the H5N1 bird flu virus. The grid is being used to analyze the potential of more than 500,000 drug-like molecules to combat H5N1. A biologist at the Genomics Research Center of the Academia Sinica says computing grids like EGEE are the fastest and cheapest way to discover new drug leads. “We are using EGEE to find new molecules that can inhibit the activities of the influenza virus,” he explains. “During previous challenges using the EGEE grid we discovered about 200 molecules with the potential to become drugs against bird flu.”
- Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/10/071007211841.htm>
23. *October 9, Bakersfield Californian* – (California) **Kern sees six new cases of virus, bring total to 130.** New numbers from the California state Department of Public Health show that 130 Kern County residents have been sickened by West Nile. Kern County has had the most incidents of infection nationwide this year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Geological Survey. The county health department is putting to use the

\$364,834 received from the governor to fight the virus by having public health nurses make home visits to newly infected people, said the public health nursing supervisor there.

Source: <http://www.bakersfield.com/102/story/256192.html>

24. *October 8, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (National) **Banked blood may lose key chemical.** Much of the stored blood given to millions every year may lack nitric oxide, a component vital for it to deliver oxygen to the tissues. Nitric oxide, which helps keep blood vessels open, begins breaking down as soon as blood goes into storage, two Duke University teams report in separate studies in this week's online edition of *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. A team studied the changes in stored blood, which is allowed to be kept for up to 42 days. "We saw clear indications of nitric oxide depletion within the first three hours," the team lead said. "But if they restored the nitric oxide at any point, the red blood cells were again able to open blood vessels and deliver oxygen to tissues."

Source: <http://www.startribune.com/484/story/1472264.html>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

25. *October 10, CNN* – (Ohio) **Shots fired in high school.** According to reports, between two and four people were wounded Wednesday in a shooting at SuccessTech Academy, a high school in downtown Cleveland, Ohio. The press secretary for the mayor stated that two students were taken to hospitals. One was conscious, but had to be removed from the school on a stretcher. Police are currently looking for a 14-year-old male in connection with the shooting.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/10/10/cleveland.shooting/index.html>

26. *October 9, King 5 Local News, Seattle, Washington* – (Washington) **Fire crew responds to SPD hazmat scare.** On Tuesday morning, the eighth floor of the Seattle Police Department headquarters was locked down due to a white, powdery substance found in an envelope addressed to the police chief. The fire department responded and firefighters determined that "the envelope's contents were not a danger," and the office reopened a short time later. As a precaution, the contents of the envelope were sent to the state crime lab to be analyzed.

Source:

[http://www.king5.com/localnews/stories/NW\\_100907WAB\\_hazmat\\_spd\\_KS.153c2fe17.html](http://www.king5.com/localnews/stories/NW_100907WAB_hazmat_spd_KS.153c2fe17.html)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

27. *October 10, PR Newswire* – (Texas, Louisiana) **Emergency responders in Texas and Louisiana receive emergency preparedness training.** Emergency responders in Texas and Louisiana will be visiting their local railroad yards over the next three weeks to participate in a chemical rail transportation safety training initiative presented by TRANSCAER (Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response) tour, which is sponsored by Union Pacific Railroad and the Dow Chemical Company. Traveling across the two states October 16 through November 2, the TRANSCAER training tour will bring chemical and rail industry professionals into select cities to provide free community awareness and emergency



response training to local responders and community leaders through hands-on demonstrations and educational seminars designed to promote emergency preparedness.

Source: [http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/news\\_press\\_release,195444.shtml](http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/news_press_release,195444.shtml)

28. *October 9, USA Today* – (National) **States working to reduce red tape for emergency responders.** State lawmakers are working to remove barriers that prevent volunteer health care personnel from providing disaster assistance in states where they are not licensed to work. The initiative stems from a proposal last year by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, which drafts model legislation for states. The re-examination of old laws began after volunteer medical workers were restricted from entering Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 because of work authorization and liability concerns. New state laws will enable physicians, other primary care providers, nurses, pharmacists, emergency medical technicians, coroners and veterinarians to enroll in a federal registry that will allow them to receive clearance for work in states other than their own. The laws also will protect them from possible lawsuits. Colorado, Kentucky and Tennessee already have already passed such measures, and a law in California is awaiting the governor's approval.

Source: [http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily\\_reports/rep\\_index.cfm?DR\\_ID=48066](http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=48066)

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## **Information Technology**

29. *October 10, Computerworld* – (National) **Time flies: DST ends Nov. 4 -- are your systems ready?** Many IT departments remember the patches, hassles and worries they experienced at the start of daylight-saving time in March. It may be time to revisit some of that work – particularly for companies that have international partners or customers. That is because several other countries – including Jordan, Egypt and New Zealand – adopted their own specific daylight-saving time updates since the time change took place in the U.S. last spring, meaning companies might want to update their patches again to ensure conformity when clocks spring forward next year. But first, companies have to deal with the return to standard time in most parts of the U.S. Clocks roll back an hour on Sunday, Nov. 4. An analyst at Forrester Research Inc. said that only companies with a large global presence need to run daylight-saving time updates for their applications and systems again. “Forrester believes this is the safest approach for those with international employees, especially those in Jordan, New Zealand, as well as Australia. It will apply to any person, device, or system that has authentication requirements, time stamp scenarios [and] events in calendaring software like those in PDAs.” For most other corporate users, the move back to standard time next month won't require any special preparations, since earlier patches would have included updates for the fall time change, he said.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9041720&intsrc=news\\_ts\\_head](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9041720&intsrc=news_ts_head)

30. *October 10, Computerworld* – (National) **Presidential candidates face phishing threat in '08.** Phishing attacks that harvest credit card numbers or divert online contributions to an opponent's campaign pose the most danger to the Web operations of 2008's presidential candidates, a security researcher said today. Not only are candidates' campaign Web sites

prime targets for phishers – the criminals could create bogus sites posing as the real deal to harvest contributors’ credit card and bank account numbers – but they could be victimized by radical followers of their opponent. “A phishing site could impersonate [the site of] one candidate, say Hillary Clinton, but actually submit the donation to another candidate, Rudy Giuliani, for example,” said the director of Symantec Corp.’s security response. Even though the dollar amounts of such a steal-from-Hillary-to-pay-Rudy attack might be small, there could be substantial fallout. “The diversion of donations like that has the potential to undermine the confidence in the online donation concept,” said the researcher. In 2004, only two phishing attacks were detected that exploited the presidential election, he said. It is likely that the 2008 campaign will see a much larger number of election-oriented phishing campaigns. Phishing posed only a “marginal risk” in 2004, in part because the scam was small-scale compared to today but also because presidential campaigns had only begun to move online in search of contributions. Today phishers are more capable and candidates more dependent on the Internet. Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9041800&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9041800&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top)

31. *October 09, Computerworld* – (National) **Microsoft patches nine bugs in Windows, IE, Word.** On Tuesday, Microsoft Corp. released six security bulletins that patched nine vulnerabilities in Windows, Internet Explorer, Microsoft Word, Outlook Express and SharePoint. However, for the second time in two months, it yanked an update at the last minute. Four of the six updates were rated critical, Microsoft’s highest threat warning, while the remaining two were judged important, the next-lowest notch in the company’s four-step scoring system. MS07-057, the critical update to IE, should be patched first, said the director of security operations at nCircle Network Security Inc. “It’s an update for every version of IE and for every supported version of Windows, so its impact is across the board,” he said. Of the four vulnerabilities patched by the update, three are related to address-bar-spoofing, the practice of disguising the URL shown by a browser to trick users into thinking they are visiting a safe or legitimate site. Microsoft also patched critical vulnerabilities in the following software products: Outlook Express on Windows XP and 2000, and Windows Mail on Vista. Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9041679&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9041679&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## **Communications Sector**

32. *October 10, Government Executive* – (National) **Panelists cite threats to U.S. computer networks.** The United States is heavily dependent on cyberspace for its military, commercial

and social interactions. But the vast and ever-expanding interconnected electronic networks are under constant attack and the nation's ability to defend them or to counterattack is hobbled by lack of coordination and "policy constraints," a panel of experts said Tuesday. "Cyberspace has become a really big deal. We do our banking, our commercial activities over the Internet," said Lt. Gen. Robert Elder, commander of the Air Force's Cyberspace, Global Strike and Network Operations command. "It's really important to the Air Force... To maintain air superiority, we have to maintain cyber superiority." The vulnerability of that capability has been demonstrated repeatedly, including an attack by hackers in June that shut down some of the Pentagon's unclassified computer systems and disrupted the e-mail system in the Defense Secretary's office, noted a military analyst. That was one of the more significant of the thousands of attacks annually against the military computer and Web networks, she said. Because of its dependence on imagery and data from satellites and reconnaissance aircraft and communications relayed globally, the Air Force has declared cyberspace one of its "warfighting domains," along with air and space operation, Elder said. He is working to create a force of "cyberwarriors" who can protect America's networks and, if necessary, attack an adversary's systems, and intends to use Air National Guard personnel extensively in this effort, he said.

Source: [http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=38249&dcn=todaysnews](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=38249&dcn=todaysnews)

33. *October 10, Federal Communications Commission* – (National) **Analog 'sunset' will disable some cell phones, curtail services.** Some cell phones will stop working and some alarm systems will be disabled early next year when cellular telephone companies discontinue analog service in February. Even before the so-called "analog cellular sunset" takes effect in mid-February, some users of OnStar in-vehicle communication services will be required to switch to digital equipment or give up the service. For more information see:

<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/hac.html>.

Source: <http://www.wsfa.com/Global/story.asp?S=7188517>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

34. *October 10, Associated Press* – (Mississippi) **Feds may buy 17,000 homes in Mississippi.** The federal government is considering buying out as many as 17,000 homes along the Mississippi coast and remaking the land into a vast hurricane protection zone. The Mississippi Coastal Improvement Program could cost \$40 billion, including buying the homes, building levees and restoring barrier islands. The land could be converted into wetlands or other public uses, such as golf courses or bike trails, but could not be sold for private development. The buyouts would be voluntary, and the Army Corps plan envisions allowing casinos, hotels and restaurants to continue operating on the coast from Bay St. Louis to Biloxi.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,300636,00.html>

35. *October 9, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Gas line blast brings scare.** On Tuesday, Consumers Energy workers examined an underground storage area where a 12-inch natural gas line ruptured and ignited Monday afternoon, sending flames 100 feet into the air. The 3:19 p.m. explosion in Salem Township, Michigan initially had authorities ordering nearby residents evacuated, but that order was canceled after Consumers crews closed the gas line and

firefighters extinguished small fires. A Consumers spokeswoman said the facility is closed until officials find the cause of the rupture.

Source: <http://www.mlive.com/news/grpress/index.ssf?/base/news-38/1191937565151930.xml&coll=6>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Dams Sector**

36. *October 10, The Times Daily* – (Alabama) **Bear Creek Dam repair to begin.** A \$35 million project to repair the Bear Creek Dam in Alabama is set to begin next week, according to Tennessee Valley Authority officials. The Bear Creek Dam has leaked since it was built and a portion of the structure was built over limestone caverns, which created problems. The holes in the bedrock will be filled in order to eliminate the leakage. The Bear Creek Project, consisting of four dams built in the 1960s and 1970s, was originally developed for “the primary purposes of flood control, recreation and economic development, and water supply.” Since the initial construction, a water treatment plant has been opened near the dam. The project is expected to be completed in 2009 and water supply will not be affected.

Source: <http://www.timesdaily.com/article/20071010/NEWS/710100318/-1/COMMUNITIES03>

37. *October 10, St. Louis Post-Dispatch* – (Illinois, Missouri) **Corps of Engineers begins repairs on scour holes at dam.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has begun to repair “scour” holes in the riverbed near the Melvin Price Locks and Dam on the upper Mississippi River. The holes were discovered last spring and, while they do not currently pose a threat to the public or dam structure, the corps thought they should be repaired before they deepen and become more costly to fix. The project should not affect navigation, and a boat will be available to tow barges southbound, if needed.

Source:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/illinoisnews/story/B2A688E62D4591CE86257370000A441D?OpenDocument>

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